

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A device for manipulating ions, said device comprising:

- (a) a holder of electrically conductive material having an aperture, said aperture having a central longitudinal axis;
- (b) a first electrode extending parallel to said longitudinal axis, said first electrode having a first end fixed to said holder so that it is electrically conductive with said holder, and a second end spaced from said ~~first-end~~ holder;
- (c) a second electrode extending parallel to said longitudinal axis and spaced from said first electrode and said holder, said second electrode having a first end adjacent the second end of said first electrode and said holder, said second electrode having a second end adjacent the first end of said first electrode; and
- (d) a rigid support of electrically insulated material having a first end fixed to said holder, said rigid support having a second end fixed to the second end of said second electrode.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A device for manipulating ions, said device having a longitudinal axis and comprising:

- (a) a first holder of electrically conductive material;

- (b) a second holder of electrically conductive material spaced from said first holder;
- (c) a first electrode extending parallel to said longitudinal axis, said first electrode having a first end fixed to said first holder so that it is electrically conductive with said first holder, said first electrode having a second end adjacent said second holder and spaced from said first end;
- (d) a second electrode extending parallel to said longitudinal axis, said second electrode having a first end fixed to said second holder so that it is electrically conductive with said first holder, said second electrode having and a second end adjacent said first holder;
- (e) a first rigid support of electrically insulated material having a first end fixed to said first holder, said first rigid support having a second end fixed to the second end of said second electrode; and
- (f) a second rigid support of electrically insulated material having a first end fixed to said second holder, said second rigid support having a second end fixed to the second end of said first electrode.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A device as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

- (a) a third electrode extending parallel to said longitudinal axis and spaced from each of said first and second electrodes, said third electrode having a first end fixed to said first holder and being electrically conductive with said first

holder, said third electrode having a second end adjacent said second holder
and spaced from said first and second holders;

- (b) a fourth electrode extending parallel to said longitudinal axis and spaced from each of said first, second, and third electrodes, said fourth electrode having a first end fixed to said second holder and being electrically conductive with said second holder, said third electrode having a second end adjacent said first holder and spaced from said first and second holders;
- (c) a third rigid support of electrically insulated material having a first end fixed to said first holder, said third rigid support having a second end fixed to the second end of said fourth electrode; and
- (d) a fourth rigid support of electrically insulated material having a first end fixed to said second holder, said third rigid support having a second end fixed to the second end of said third electrode.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A device as recited in claim 5, wherein said first, second, third, and fourth electrodes are located at 90° intervals about said longitudinal axis.

8. (Original) A device as recited in claim 5, wherein each of said first and second holders has an aperture that extends along said longitudinal axis.

9. (Original) A device as recited in claim 8, wherein each of said apertures is circular and concentric with said longitudinal axis.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a device for manipulating ions comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a polarity member of electrically conductive material comprising:
 - (1) a holder having an aperture with a central longitudinal axis; and
 - (2) a first electrode fixed to said holder so that it is electrically conductive with said holder, said first electrode and extending parallel to said longitudinal axis;
- (b) fixing a first end of a rigid support of electrically insulated material to said holder; and
- (c) fixing a second electrode to a second end of said rigid support ~~said holder~~ so that said second electrode is spaced from said holder and said first electrode and extends parallel to said longitudinal axis.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 10 ~~11~~, wherein said polarity member is machined from a block of electrically conducted material.

13. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 10, wherein said rigid support is a first rigid support, said polarity member is a first polarity member, said holder

is a first holder having a first aperture and said second electrode is part of a second polarity member of electrically conductive material comprising a second holder fixed to said second electrode so that it is electrically conductive with said second electrode and having a second aperture axially aligned with said first aperture, said method further comprising the steps of:

- (a) fixing a first end of a second rigid support of electrically insulated material to said second holder; and
- (b) fixing said first electrode to a second end of said second rigid support so that said first electrode is spaced from said second holder.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 13 14, wherein each of said first polarity member and said second polarity member is formed by machining from a single block of electrically conducted material.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 13, wherein said first polarity member has a third electrode fixed to said first holder so that it is electrically conductive with said first holder and said second polarity member has a fourth electrode fixed to said second holder so that it is electrically conductive with said second holder, each of said third and fourth electrodes extending parallel to said longitudinal axis and spaced from said first and second electrodes, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) fixing a first end of a third rigid support of electrically insulated material to said first holder;

- (b) fixing said third electrode to a second end of said third rigid support so that said third electrode is spaced from said second holder;
- (c) fixing a first end of a fourth rigid support of electrically insulated material to said fourth electrode; and
- (d) fixing said fourth electrode to a second end of said fourth rigid support so that said fourth electrode is spaced from said first holder.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 16 ~~17~~, wherein each of said first polarity member and said second polarity member is are formed by machining from a single block of electrically conducted material.

19. (Original) The method as recited in claim 16, wherein said first and third electrodes are directly opposed along said central longitudinal axis and said second and fourth electrodes are directly opposed along said central longitudinal axis and said method further comprises fixing said rigid supports to said first and second holders so that said first and third electrodes alternate with said second and fourth electrodes at 90° intervals about said central longitudinal axis.